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**YUGOSLAVIA: Serbia Stays Communist**

*An apparent victory by Communist strongman Slobodan Milosevic in the presidential election in Serbia on Sunday puts the Serbs at odds with the non-Communist governments in other republics, dims prospects for negotiations between feuding ethnic groups, and sets the stage for ethnic violence in Serbia's Kosovo Province, which is predominantly Albanian.*

Preliminary returns indicate Milosevic may have captured more than 60 percent of the vote, avoiding a runoff. The Communists thus far have won 80 of the 250 seats in the republic Assembly, leaving the bulk to be decided in a runoff on 23 December. Opposition leaders are accusing the Communists of manipulating the results and are calling for nullification of some returns. Election observers, [REDACTED] noted some voting irregularities, although apparently not enough to change the outcome. The Communists also fared well in Montenegro, where their candidate is on the way to a first-round victory, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Milosevic's retention of the Serbian presidency almost certainly will reinforce the determination of Slovenia and Croatia to leave the federation and sets the stage for possible confrontation between Croatia and Serbia over disputed territory. Unlike defeated anti-Communist nationalist Vuk Draskovic, who has said he is willing to negotiate with Croatia and Slovenia, Milosevic has rejected compromise with the non-Communist governments. Fears are certain to rise among Croats and Slovenes that he may now ally himself with the Serb-dominated federal Army to move against them. [REDACTED]

The boycott of the election by ethnic Albanians in Kosovo further erodes any legitimacy the Milosevic government may have had there but does little for Albanian hopes for autonomy. As attention is increasingly focused on secession by the northern republics in coming months, Albanians are likely to be increasingly tempted to use violence to resist Serbian power. [REDACTED]

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